

2015 Legislative Agenda & Session Preview

Office of Intergovernmental Relations
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Nick Harper
Jasmin Weaver
Scott Plusquellec
Rebecca Johnson Arledge

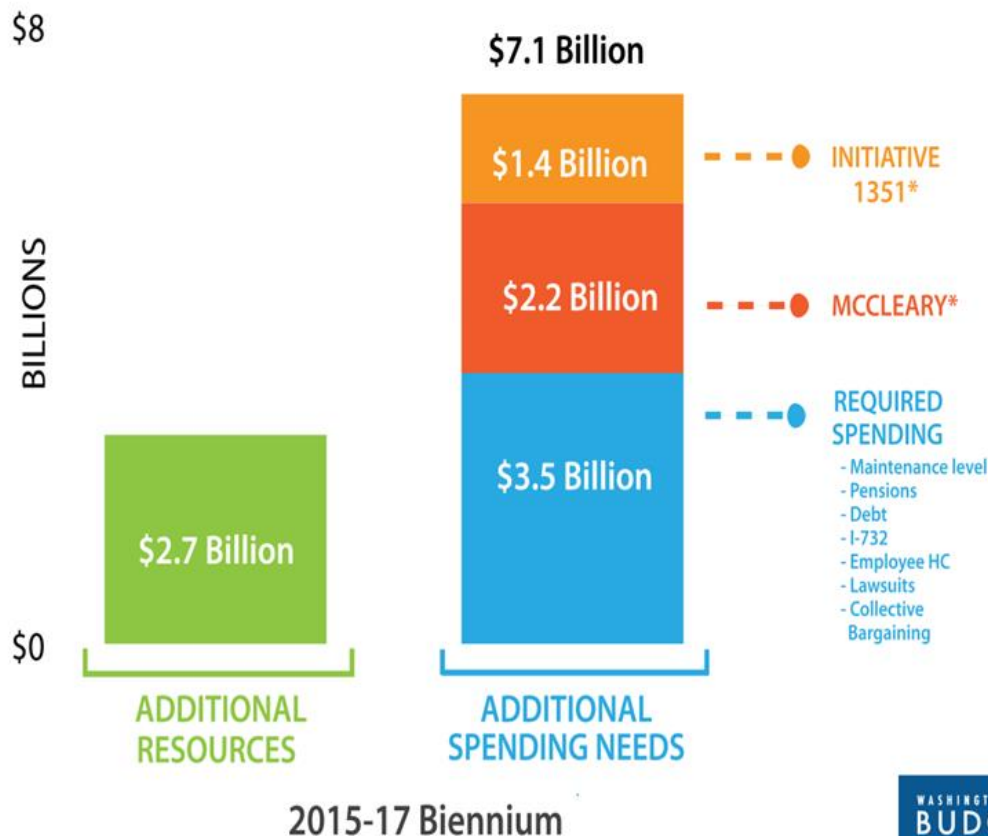
Overview

- 105 day session begins January 12th
- Entering a new biennium, including a 2 year budget and long legislative session
- Elections yielded new members of House and Senate – Senate remains in control of Majority Coalition/Republican; House Democratic Majority margin narrowed
- Senate Committee Days are Nov. 19th-21st; House Committee Days are Dec. 4th-5th
- Governor to issue preliminary Book 1 budget that assumes no revenue increases in December

Budget Overview

FIGURE 2: RESOURCES COULD FALL \$4.4 BILLION SHORT

2015-17 Projected spending needs, McCleary investment, and I-1351 costs compared to revenue growth, Near General State Fund + Opportunity Pathways, dollars in billions



Source: Budget & Policy Center Analysis; data from ERFC, OFM, JTFF

* Assumes the legislature phases in funding based on the recommendations of the JTFF, including funding to lower class sizes in K-3, which partially overlaps with requirements of I-1351



- Revenue forecast announced on September 18th was up \$163 million for 2013-2015 (8.7% higher than the 2011-13 biennium). Total projected new revenue over 2015-17 biennium = \$2.7 billion. Next forecast: November 20th
- Need to close a budget deficit that's projected to be approximately \$1 billion, plus an additional \$1-2 billion for McCleary-related costs

McCleary Court Decision and Education Funding

“The state must make ample provision for the education of all children in Washington.”

Actions taken since McCleary ruling:

- Additional \$1 billion invested in 2013
- Increases in supplies, class sizes, all-day Kindergarten
- Delayed COLAs for school employees

Court deadline of 2018: Approximately \$3.5 billion more

- Ordered State to produce plan to reach 2018 by end of 2014 session
- Court found State in contempt in September; gave reprieve until end of 2015 to impose sanctions
- Possible actions include fines, ordering funding for education before any other areas, selling state property, etc.

Legislative Agenda Process

City's collaborative legislative agenda development process:

- This summer OIR took departmental requests/holdovers from last year
- Worked with the Mayor, Council, State Legislative delegation, and legislative partners to develop draft (both long and short docs)
- Mayor and Councilmembers review and edit the agenda through the fall, with a plan for Council passage after the budget in late November or early December
- There will be continued meetings with our community partners and participation with AWC

Carry-over Issues from 2014

- Marijuana regulations
- Funding for state and local transportation needs
- Funding for mental health and human services
- Protection of existing local revenue authorities
- Funding for public works and infrastructure
- Climate change
- Social justice issues
- Regulation of oil and coal shipments through rail and waterways
- Gun safety

Next Steps

- State legislative committees meet through the fall
- Governor Inslee will propose a biennial budget (Book 1) in early December; followed by Book 2 which will be his true proposed budget
- Legislative session starts on January 12th and runs for 105 days
- Already talk of at least one special session